(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Raunak Singh Committee on feasibility of setting up a free port in India;

(b) if so, the main recommendation thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Detailed recommendations of the Committee are available in its Report, copies of which have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d). As the Committee's Report requires indepth examination in cultivation with the concerned Ministries/Deptts., it wold not, at this juncture, be possible to decide upon either the acceptance of its recommendation or their implementation.

[*English*]

Payment of C. C. S.

6858. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:
SHRI CHHOTEY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cheques for CCS refunds are pending in the office of Jt, CCI&E, Bombay;

(b) if so, the number and value thereof and the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the amount released to Jt. CCI&E and the amount paid to exporters so far; and

(d) the steps propose to be taken by the Government to ensure speedy disposal of all the pending claims?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). 17779 cheques which were pending as on 22.1.92 amounting to Rs. 167.80 crores have been issued.

(c) and (d). Out of the total amount of Rs. 433.5 crores released to J. C. Bombay during 1991-92, the entire amount has been paid against pending CCS claims. Payment of further claims, if any, will be made out of the budget allocation for the year 1992-93.

Visakhapatnam Airport

6859. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA:
DR. VISHWANATHAM KANITHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for expansion and upgradation of terminal and other infrastructural facilities at the Visakhapatnam airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked during 1992-93 for this purpose;

(c) whether there is any proposal to change the name of the airport also; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the new name proposed for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATU-

RAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There are plans to re-orient/extend the secondary runway at the Visakhapatnam Airport subject to the availability of land from the Visakhapatnam Port Thrust. Funds can be earmarked for the Project only after the land has been made available and the details worked out. In the mealtime action bas been initiated to provide night landing facilities on the existing runway.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export by India Trade Centre

6860. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN:
SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the Indian Trade centre has been able to promote exports;

(b) the details and the value of goods exported during each of the last two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up new units in the country and abroad to strengthen the trade centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The India Trade Centre in Brussels is a promotional agency, for supporting Indian exporters to EEC countries by providing market intelligence, information on price-trends, quality and packaging requirements, distribution channels and changes in consumer preferences and demands. It is, however, not possible to ascertain precisely the extent to which it has been able to promote exports.

(b) The value of goods exported to EEC countries from India during 1989-90 and 1990-91 amounted to Rs. 7209.52 crores and Rs. 9036.19 crores respectively, India's expoets to EEC countries mainly consist of (i) textile and garments; (ii) carpets, gems and jewellery, (iii) leather and leather goods, (iv) agriculture and marine products, (v) engineering and electronics goods and (vi) chemicals.

(c) and (d). Government has no plans to set up any new units in the country or abroad to strengthen the above Trade Centre.

[*Translation*]

Closure of Jute Purchase Centres

6861. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to close 6 jute purchase centres of the Jute Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for rehabilitation of the persons to be rendered unemployed as a results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.